



## Helen Dillon Gray

April 29, 2014

Helen Julia Dillon Gray, 96, of West Hartford, beloved wife of the late Wilbur Matthew Gray, passed away at her home on Tuesday, April 29, 2014. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on September 4th, 1917, to the late James J. Dillon, Sr. and Kathryn Hayden Dillon and raised in Windsor, CT, where her father owned Dillon's Market. She graduated from John Fitch High School and Boston University College of Practical Arts and Letters in 1937. Following graduation, Helen was employed by the State of CT Labor Department/Unemployment Compensation Division and then by the Department of Finance & Control where she was secretary to State Budget Director Robert H. Weir for thirteen years. She left this position to raise her family in West Hartford. She returned to work in 1973 at the State Board of Trustees for Regional Community Colleges where she had the good fortune of being the administrative assistant to Jack Foley, the Executive Director's Legal Counsel for Personnel & Contract Services, until her retirement in 1980. She also worked as a paraprofessional at the University of Connecticut Law School.

Helen was proud of her volunteer service in the Windsor Red Cross Motor Corps during World War II. She was a longtime member of the Saint Thomas Apostle Mother's Circle, the Women's Auxiliary of Saint Francis Hospital, the Saint Thomas Women's Club and the Guild of Saint Agnes. She enjoyed summers with her family at Highland Lake in Winsted, Hawk's Nest Beach in Old Lyme and Kezar Lake in Lovell, Maine.

Helen is survived by her five children: Susan Kathryn Gray of West Hartford; Janet Gray Connelly and her husband John of Medfield, MA; Virginia Anne Gray of West Hartford; Steven Dillon Gray of Glastonbury; Lisabeth Gray Bender and her husband Steve of Sherborn, MA. She is also survived by her six grandchildren: John Thomas Connelly, Maura Dillon Connelly, Bridget Ellen Connelly and Matthew Gray Connelly of Medfield, MA; Halley Anne Gray of Wellington, New Zealand; and, Dillon Christopher Gray of Glastonbury. She also leaves her beloved sister Virginia Dillon Emmerson of Windsor, CT, and many wonderful nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. In addition to her husband and parents, Helen was pre-deceased by her brother James J. Dillon, Jr. of Windsor, CT.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday, May 4th, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, with a Mass of Christian Burial, Monday, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, donations in Helen's name may be made to Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Saint Thomas the Apostle School or an organization of the donor's choice. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

**MAY 4.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Mass of Christian Burial

**MAY 5.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
872 Farmington Ave.  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 233-8269

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ To Libby and all the Gray family,  
I am so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. She was a great lady. I  
have many happy memories of high school years and your family.

You are in my thoughts and prayers,  
Janet (Mattioda) Chapin

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**Janet (Mattioda) Chapin** - May 06, 2014 at 08:58 AM

SH

“ Although I did not know your loved one personally, I am truly sorry  
for your loss. May you find comfort in Gods promise found at  
Revelation 21:4- "And He will wipe out every tear from their eyes  
and death will be no more..."

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**shannon** - May 06, 2014 at 07:18 AM

LD

“ Dear Susan, Libby, Ginny and Steven,

*Please accept our condolences. Your mother was a beautiful woman and dear friend to our family. Growing up on Bishop Rd was like growing up with family all around you. Your mother and father were a wonderful part of this amazing childhood. Both of my parents welcomed the frequent visits by your father to my Dad and the faithful friendship of your mother over the many years of my mother's limited mobility. She would brighten my mother's day with her conversations about their many shared interests including children and St. Thomas activities. She was blessed to have such a long life filled with the joys of family and friends. We send our prayers for you all at this time of loss and celebration.*

*Yours truly,  
Lynn (Grant) and Kevin Dempsey, Ellen Grant and Carroll Grant*

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**Lynn Dempsey** - May 05, 2014 at 08:41 AM

CG

“ *I was so sad to hear of your Mom's passing.*

*After reading the tribute that Jennifer wrote I could only smile thinking of the wonderful times we all shared on Bishop Road as kids. I was very fortunate to grow-up next door to your family. I remember your Dad always stopping over in the afternoon to chat with My Grand father...and always giving him a hard time. Your Mom would often come over and ask your Dad to come home for dinner. She was so patient and kind...and how she adored your Dad and his gregarious ways.*

*I am sure that your parents are now happy to be reunited...and they will continue to watch over all of you.*

*You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Cyndee & Rocky Goodwin*

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**cyndee goodwin** - May 04, 2014 at 07:58 PM

J(

“ To Susan, Janet, Steven, Ginny and Libby, Our deepest sympathies go to you and your family at this time. Your mother was a wonderful lady and I shall treasure the memories of growing up on Bishop Road and playing with you guys. There was always Kool Aid or hot chocolate in the kitchen for us kids. Your mother was always there as was your father. Your parents always spoke and wanted to know how I was and what I was doing. And that was always very nice. Helen Gray was a tremendous contributor to the community, to her church and to the kids of Bishop Road. What a tremendous example of a great American. I will never forget her kindness to me. My deepest condolences to all of you. Jennifer Fox-George and husband, Ray, Oklahoma City.

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**Jennifer Fox Colon, USAF (Ret)** - May 03, 2014 at 08:35 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Helen Dillon Gray.



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May 03, 2014 at 12:17 AM